

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2003

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2005

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO INCLUDE NATIVE AMERICAN
GOVERNMENTS IN THE STATE CEMETERY GRANTS PROGRAM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)



1 To the Congress of the United States:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, Arizona's Native American veterans are in dire need of a
4 Native American veterans' cemetery. The largest community veterans' cemetery
5 on the Navajo Nation, located at Fort Defiance, is now completely full; and

6 Whereas, Native Americans hold their warriors, the veterans of our
7 nation's armed forces, in high regard. The Navajo Department of Veterans'
8 Affairs states, "The concepts of protector and defender are embedded within
9 our philosophy." The Navajo Nation alone boasts more than sixteen thousand
10 veterans of the United States' armed forces, and Navajo soldiers have served
11 their country since the Treaty of 1868; and

12 Whereas, the Navajo Nation Veterans' Administration has already
13 identified several sites for a new cemetery in the Navajo Nation that will
14 be open to all veterans residing in northern Arizona; and

15 Whereas, Arizona's Forty-fifth Legislature established the State
16 Veterans' Cemetery Fund in 2001 to build up to three state veterans'
17 cemeteries. This fund receives reimbursement monies from the federal State
18 Cemetery Grants Program that was established in 1980 to meet the growing need
19 for veterans' cemeteries; and

20 Whereas, the federal legislation that implemented the State Cemetery
21 Grants Program failed to include tribal governments. The many Native
22 American veterans who have served their nation honorably in times of both war
23 and peace are deserving of the same recognition as non-Indian veterans for
24 the sacrifices they have made on behalf of this great nation.

25 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
26 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

27 1. That the Congress of the United States enact legislation to amend
28 38 United States Code section 2408 that would include Native American
29 governments in the State Cemetery Grants Program, thereby allowing Arizona
30 tribes to establish a Native American Veterans' Cemetery.

31 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
32 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
33 of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress
34 from the State of Arizona.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE MARCH 5, 2003.

PASSED BY THE SENATE APRIL 10, 2003.

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS AND FINAL PASSAGE APRIL 28, 2003.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 28, 2003.

Passed the House March 5, 2003

by the following vote: 57 Ayes

0 Nays, 3 Not Voting

Jake Flake
Speaker of the House

Sorman L. Moore
Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate April 10, 2003

by the following vote: 28 Ayes

0 Nays, 2 Not Voting

Ken Blumenthal
President of the Senate

Channing B. Bingham
Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Memorial was received by the Secretary of State

H.C.M. 2005

this _____ day of _____, 20 _____

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE
AMENDMENTS AND FINAL PASSAGE

April 28, 2003,

by the following vote: 59 Ayes,

0 Nays, 1 Not Voting

Jake Flake
Speaker of the House
Norman L. Fyoo
Chief Clerk of the House

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill was received by the Secretary of State
this 28 day of April, 2003,

H.C.M. 2005

at 2:37 o'clock P. M.

James H. Brewer
Secretary of State